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The Michigan Medical Society; Its First Eighty-three Years; Present Wants and Suggestions for Their Supply.

President's Address at Port Huron, June 26th, 1902.

BY

LEARTUS CONNOR, A. M., M. D.

DETROIT, MICH.

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PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

THE MICHIGAN MEDICAL SOCIETY.

*Its first eighty-three years. — Present wants and suggestions for their supply.**

LEARTUS CONNOR, A. M., M. D.,
Detroit, Mich.

Read at the Annual Meeting of the Michigan State Medical Society, held at Port Huron, June 26 and 27, 1902

A year since you selected me for certain responsibilities and special work. 'Tis too much to hope that your expectations have been fully met, but you have had my constant thought, best judgment and unwearied service.

On a beautiful October day your representative laid the corner stone of the new Science Building of the Medical Department, University of Michigan—an epoch in the life of Michigan's first medical school, by which it can better train those who shall fill our future ranks, add new resources to our science, and augment the State's reputation in the scientific world.

Realizing that you desired an increase of members and more local societies, your president and efficient secretary did what was possible to promote both objects.

Last year the American Medical Association radically changed its organization, by placing all legislative and executive power with delegates from State societies and the sections—in all one hundred and fifty. The rest of the association receive the JOURNAL (if they pay five dollars annually), take part in the scientific and social work, and listen to the addresses.

In common with other states, Michigan is asked by the American Medical Association to divide its membership in like manner; a house of delegates from the county societies and councilors for legislative and executive duty; the remainder for scientific and social purposes.

To study exhaustively these radical changes and wisely advise the proper action, the president appointed a committee, consisting of Drs. A. E. Bulson, of Jackson, George Dock, of Ann Arbor, and Charles T. McClintock, of Detroit. Its report and that of our members of the house of delegates, American Medical Association, follow this paper, and conclude the formal presentation of the subject of our reorganization.

* The authorities for statements of facts in this address are (1) the unpublished record of the Michigan Territorial Medical Society, kindly loaned by my friend, Dr. C. G. Jennings, (this covers a period of thirty-two years;) (2) unpublished records of Wayne County Medical Society, loaned by Dr. S. P. Duffield; (3) published reports of Michigan State Medical Society. Correcting and supplementing these are the Legislative Records, Compiled Laws, Supreme Court Decisions, addresses and papers in medical journals, society reports, monographs, daily papers, Pioneer Society reports, and verbal communications from the older men and women, who personally were conversant with some of the facts, or received the same from their relatives, who were participators in the same.

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Standing at the close of eighty-three years with a new life more complex and highly organized than any we have known, it is pertinent to inquire: "What light does our past shed upon the future?"

Organized at Detroit under territorial law, August 10th, 1819, the Michigan Medical Society has had but two breaks in its continuous operation, viz: from 1851 to 1853, and from 1860 to 1866. Its name has varied slightly during these three periods, but it has been, under all conditions, the Michigan Medical Society.

It was one of many events that marked the origin of Michigan as an American community, based upon the permanent resources of its own industries, in spite of the planting of a colony by Cadillac on the shores of the Detroit river one hundred and twenty years previous. Others were: the first move to establish Michigan University; the first sales of land by the United States; the opening of roads towards Saginaw, Chicago, Grand River, Fort Gratiot, and the removal of the stockade about Detroit.

The moving spirit in the formation of the Michigan Medical Society was Dr. John L. Whiting—a type of the doctors who laid the foundations of our Michigan Medical Temple amid primeval forests. Born November 28th, 1793, at Canaan, N. Y., of parents who had emigrated from Norwich, Conn., he received his preliminary training at Lebanon, N. Y., and Lenox, Mass. Thereafter for three years he studied medicine with Dr. Samuel White, of Hudson, N. Y., and was licensed by the State of New York. Turning his face westward he reached Detroit on horseback, February 26th, 1817. Endowed with great physical and mental vigor, he soon secured a large practice and commanding social influence. Conversant with the New York medical laws,* and believing them adapted to the needs of the territory, in 1819 he began the formation of a medical society among the few scattered physicians of the territory (Schoolcraft says there were but eight physicians in Detroit). Changing the New York medical laws to the new conditions, himself and friends readily secured the assent of the government as embodied in Governor Lewis Cass, Judges A. B. Woodward and John Griffin—a task made easy by the fact that these men were conversant with similar laws existing in the older states whence they had come. Whiting served long as secretary, and then as president.

Unfortunately for the medical profession, in 1832 he left it to engage with John J. Deming in the commission and forwarding business. In 1842 he became a land tax agent. Dr. Brodie said that this change was induced by the unexpected deaths of three successive cases—an event often recorded in medical annals. Dr. Whiting was ever ready in times of emergency, as in the cholera epidemics of 1832 and later, to throw aside his business and assist his professional brethren, till the crisis had passed. He died full of honor, aged eighty-seven, leaving numerous descendants, always in the front of the hosts advancing Michigan's progress.

To grasp the far-reaching influence of this first Michigan Medical Society, it is needful to keep in mind the salient fea-

*Dr. W. W. Potter (Buffalo, N. Y.) says N. Y. State Med. Society originated in action taken by physicians in and about Saratoga, N. Y., in 1805.

tures of the physical, political, religious, social, business, and scientific conditions of 1819 in Michigan. At that date it was a French Arcadia, as described by Longfellow; an immense forest of giant trees, interspersed by silver lakes and oak openings, cleared only for a few rods along the larger rivers. Vast undrained areas were breeding places for the malarial fevers and culture beds for visiting morbid germs, as cholera, typhoid, and typhus.

Its inhabitants were mainly of the Roman Catholic faith, born and nurtured under the despotic idea of the French and British kings of that day—and so unfavorable to general education or the exercise of individual liberty.

Relations with the outside world were difficult, dangerous and expensive. Mails from Ohio were brought on horseback as late as 1826, and postage increased with the length of the route.

Trading in furs was the chief source of wealth; fishing, hunting and light farming added something to means of subsistence.

Lives of doctors were full of adventure and hardship from hostile Indians, absence of roads, the presence of deep, thick mud, and long trips incident to the sparse population. Calls to places as distant as Tecumseh from Detroit were not infrequent, occupying two days and a night, either going or coming; the night being spent on the ground rolled in a blanket, subject to calls from wolves or other uncanny natives; the Indian trail, their only guide through the dense forests. Because of scanty pay for professional work, most, if not all doctors, were compelled to engage in some outside occupation—as the keeping of a drug store, or agent for articles of general merchandise. From such sources have sprung not a few of the large commercial houses or factories of modern Michigan.

His superior education and gentlemanly manners gave the doctor high social position and great influence in all public affairs. Thus in 1842 Drs. Zina Pitcher and Douglas Houghton, aided by Samuel Barstow, were most active in promoting the act by which Michigan established the first absolutely free system of popular education. Drs. Sager, Pitcher, and Houghton, with other doctors, were active in the steps that led to the growth of the University. Pitcher was long one of its regents; later, in an editorial in the *Peninsular Journal of Medicine,* he expressed regret that he had not held out for a nine months' course at the opening of the Medical Department, and an entrance examination equal to the literary. Both Drs. Marshall Chapin and Zina Pitcher served as mayors of Detroit and were influential in developing health interests of the city.

The leaders were picked from the best stock of New England and New York and Pennsylvania—their deeds would fill a library, and those of their descendents are a solid part of Michigan's history.

Since the chemistry of 1819 was extremely crude, and pharmacy still more, it is evident that doctors were compelled to administer remedies not always concentrated or agreeable. They lived and died in ignorance of the delight in prescribing nastiness coated with sugar or gelatine; or the satisfaction of using remedies as exact in power and definite in operating as the surgeon's knife.

Measured by present standards, neither anatomy, physiology or pathology were very helpful. Without anæsthetics, bacteriology, aseptic surgery, with imperfect appliances of all kinds, without antitoxine, the doctor of 1819 needed the best brain capacity and closest attention to details to secure satisfactory results. Since his senses were compelled to act as substitutes for the thermometer, the sphymograph, the ophthalmoscope and all other scopes, 'tis little wonder that they became wonderfully acute and that his experience added much to the doctor's practical value. Such was the house in which was born the first Michigan Medical Society. The leading features of its constitution:

1. It was a legal document, and the Society represented the Government of the Territory.

2. It prescribed the conditions for beginning the study of medicine.

3. It determined the fitness of those seeking a license to practice.

4. It formulated the offenses for which licenses were revoked.

5. It had power to execute these provisions—in short, the Society was legislative, executive, and judiciary, with police power to make all effective.

The qualifications demanded of those desiring to begin the study of medicine are stated in the Incorporating Act, By-Law 9. "The President, Senior Censor and Secretary shall form a Board to examine students in the preparatory branches of education, and give a certificate, previous to their entering upon the study of medicine. They shall meet on the second Monday of January and June, respectively. They shall keep minutes of their proceedings and lay them before the Society semi-annually. If the student has had a collegiate or academic education, his moral character only shall be the subject for their examination. This certificate shall permit him to study with any member of the Society."

Otherwise, by specific vote, the secretary granted permission to members to take as students those with known fitness to begin the study of medicine. Thus we read in the proceedings that on June 14th, 1825, Dr. Ezra S. Parke (father of the late Mr. H. C. Parke, of Parke, Davis & Co.) was granted permission to take as a student Mr. L. B. Webster. This care for the preliminary training of perspective medical students is worthy of being copied now and evermore. One is startled to contemplate the high standing of the profession had this example of the early days of our Society become universal and continuous.

Respecting the conditions for granting licenses, By-Law 18 says: "Candidates for license to practice medicine or surgery shall give notice thereof to the President and Censors fifteen days previous to examination, and before anyone can be admitted to examination he must present to the Censors satisfactory proof that he is twenty-one years old, of good moral character, has studied the time required by law with one or more reputable practitioners, and that he has appropriated the time solely to the study of medicine and surgery. If he be a candidate for a license to practice physic, he shall be examined on materia medica, pharmacy, anatomy, physiology, and theory and practice of medicine; candidates for the practice of surgery shall be particularly examined on anatomy and surgery." Further, By-Law

19 says: "When a candidate shall obtain his certificate, signed by a majority of Censors, he shall present the same to the President, who shall direct him to deliver an inaugural address on some medical or chirurgical subject before the Society at its present or next meeting; after which he shall be entitled to a diploma under the seal of the Society, signed by the President and countersigned by the Secretary. For this he shall pay ten dollars for the use of the Society."

Licenses to practice given by other state societies were accepted if said society accepted those from Michigan—full and fair reciprocity—in operation eighty odd years ago and for a third of a century later. Why is not the same provision as fair to-day?

Certificates of dismissal were given members moving from the territory, provided they had settled their accounts and otherwise conducted themselves decorously.

For unseemly conduct a member could be expelled by a two-thirds vote; the accused having had sufficient notice to arrange his defense—unseemly conduct included gross immorality, the using of secret nostrums, etc.

Members of the Society absent from the semi-annual meetings were fined a dollar for each offense. The admission fee was five dollars; the annual dues one and one-half dollars.

Licensed physicians in any county, on application, were granted by the territorial society the right to form a local society which, within the limits of the county, had the same rights as the territorial, except that the aggrieved member had the right of appeal to the parent society, and the county society compelled to accept the decision as final.

Thus June 12th, 1827, permission was granted Drs. Cyril Nichols, Rufus Pomeroy, William Kitteridge and David Lord to form a Washtenaw County Medical Society.

June 12th, 1831, permission was granted Drs. William Thompson, David L. Porter, E. L. Parke and Thaddeus Thompson to form an Oakland County Medical Society.

July 23d, 1835, to Drs. Hubbel Loomis, etc., to form a St. Joseph County Medical Society.

January, 1836, to Dr. L. T. Jenney, etc., to establish a Macomb County Medical Society.

January, 1836, to establish a Monroe County Medical Society.

June, 1837, to Drs. Darwin Littlefield, Hiram Alden, M. Randall, William Noneclott and Thomas Caulkins to establish a Branch County Medical Society.

April 14th, 1849, the Wayne County Medical Society—From an unpublished report of a meeting of this society, March 16th, 1850, we learn that the Censors reported that "Edmund Andrews is entitled to be received as a student of medicine by any member of the Wayne County Medical Society." Thus one of Chicago's most celebrated surgeons gained permission to begin the study of medicine from this Society.*

In 1825 the Government of Michigan was augmented by a number of councilors, elected by the people, to act in con-

* Thus anterior to 1850 we had seven County Medical Societies; in 1902 we have fifteen, classed as County Medical Societies, or twenty-two of all sorts, not a rapid increase for over half a century.

junction with the Governor and Judges, appointed by the general government. On that date the following changes were made in the medical law:

1. A candidate for commencing the study of medicine must be sixteen years old.

2. He must study medicine four years ere applying for a license. In lieu of one year, a year's study in a respectable college may be accepted—after a long reign of a far lower standard we have returned to our first.

3. If coming from another state, the candidate must produce a diploma or valid evidence to show the possession of knowledge adequate to practice medicine satisfactorily—a standard such as now prevails, except the Censors deciding the fitness are different.

In 1829, the law of 1819, as amended in 1825, was re-enacted with amendments as:

1. Surgeons and assistant surgeons, U. S. A., stationed at Green Bay, Prairie du Chene, Sault Ste. Marie and Mackinac, were permitted to do civil practice without license, provided the civil doctors were inadequate to the needs of the people about the posts.

2. County societies were permitted to hold property to the extent of $5,000, and the territorial to $25,000.

3. Evidence was required of doctors coming from other states that they had studied as much as was required in Michigan, a fair proposition for all time.

4. Doctors unconnected with any of the legal societies were subject to the same penalties as irregulars.

5. Each of the Territorial and County Censors must be notified of a proposed examination, and a majority must be actually present, else the examination could not proceed.

6. Physicians could be tried on general charges, as infamous crimes, gross negligence, or incompetency, and if found guilty, suspended from practice under the same penalties as the unlicensed.

In 1838 the medical laws were again revised in accord with a strong hostile public sentiment, developed by the active proselyting of the hords of quacks who sought a home in the new state. The population had risen from 7,000 in 1820, to 174,467 in 1837. Further it was a period of wild-cat money, of general extravagant inflation of everything, the projection of public and private enterprises on the scale of paranoiac. As the people were in a frame of mind to be robbed, the quacks gathered to do the job in accord with the axiom, "where the carcass is there do the vultures gather."

The revision covered the following points:

1. Jury and militia duty were repealed.

2. Fines for irregular or unlicensed practice were eliminated, though the law remained against the collection of fees by the unlicensed.

1. In 1846 another revision repealed Section 8, giving the unlicensed legal power to collect fees.

2. Physicians from other states were admitted to practice without any formalities—thus for the first time inaugurating the era of "free trade" in medical practice, an era unchecked until a recent date.

3. The requirement of four years of study was struck out—has it been restored?

4. Perhaps the most remarkable thing in this history, as related by Dr. Zina Pitcher, is a decision of the Michigan Supreme Court that "A doctor is any person calling himself such."

Even this brief account makes evident that the Michigan Medical Society no longer represented the State Government —accordingly it held its last meeting January 14th, 1851. At this meeting Drs. William Brodie and L. H. Cobb were elected members, and Drs. George B. Russell, Randall S. Rice and Zina Pitcher appointed a committee to attend the next examination of candidates for the M. D. degree at the University of Michigan, Dept. of Medicine and Surgery—thus still trying to guard the gates of the medical profession of Michigan "that none enter unworthily."

During this first period of existence the total membership of the Michigan Medical Society was sixty-three. In an address Dr. Pitcher says that the yearly accessions were limited to two—if correct, it explains why during thirty-two years there were so few members. Other reasons were the expense of entrance fee, five dollars, annual dues of one and one-half dollars, fines one dollar for each failure to attend the semi-annual meetings, and the tedious, difficult modes of travel, practically limiting its membership to Detroit and adjacent country. It licensed two hundred and fifty members, whose names with date of licenses we have.

Of the number licensed by the county societies we have no means of knowing, as rarely have the records been preserved. The lists of these legal societies include about all who left any permanent record upon public professional affairs, during these thirty-two years. The Society's first officers were:

President—William Brown.
Vice-President—Stephen C. Henry.
Secretary—John L. Whiting.
Treasurer—Randall S. Rice.
Censors—Ebenezer Hurd, Stephen C. Henry, Randall S. Rice.

Note that at its start this society had but five members with which to fill seven offices, so two were given two offices each. Recalling that, quacks included, there were but eight doctors in Detroit, and scarcely more in the territory, it called for a sublime faith in these five doctors to form a medical society on the basis of ensuring a clean, well educated, honest profession in Michigan. Yet we hear it said that with a dozen physicians in a single county, it is impossible to establish a medical society. Has the nerve of our founders died out, or is it merely dormant, waiting for a galvanic current from this Society to rouse its ancestral power?

The changes of officers in this Society were very infrequent. William Brown was president seven years; William Thompson, one year; Stephen C. Henry, six years; John L. Whiting, three; Marshall Chapin, one; D. V. Hoyt, one, and Zina Pitcher, fourteen—seven presidents in thirty-two years.

Of secretaries there were but four: John L. Whiting, eleven years; Randall S. Rice, seven; E. M. Cowles, one, and J. B. Scovil, fourteen.

The records show but few papers read and few scientific discussions—the time being occupied with examining, registering, licensing, giving and receiving letters of dismissal and prosecuting offenders. The Society had its own attorney and

added such other legal talent as occasion called for. It rewarded those giving evidence of violated law by assessing them with expenses if the suit failed of success, while it gave no reward for the evidence—a novel mode of administering justice.

A notable event in the Society's history was the election to membership of Dr. William Beaumont, of Mackinac, on June 14th, 1825. On August 27th, 1826, he gave the Society a report of his celebrated case of gastric fistula, with an account of clinical and chemical studies on gastric digestion, scientific observations, which formed an epoch in our knowledge of human digestion.

In the strait uniting Lakes Huron and Michigan, on the beautiful island of Mackinac, stands a massive granite monument erected by the Michigan medical profession in 1900, when its meeting was held on the island, to express an appreciation of a colleague whose glory brightens with passing years.

January 9th, 1838, the Society voted thanks to Drs. J. G. Connell, of Jackson County, and Hiram Alden, of Branch County, for "their firmness in defending, in legislature, the privileges of the profession against the encroachments of presuming ignorance, and the disorganizing spirit which seeks to annul all vested rights, even at the expense of life of persons and property." This little side light indicates much of the practical operation of the Michigan Medical Society of that period. We have seen that it was absolute monarch of the Michigan medical profession, with power to prescribe what the student should know ere he assayed the study of medicine; what he should add to secure a license; how he should demean himself in order to retain his license; the methods by which he could be deposed; and the means by which he could be transferred to another sister medical society. But "Uneasy sits the head that wears the crown."

The Governor and Judges were men of large ability and devotion to the public good, so it was easy to induce them to enact such a law as prevailed in the states whence all parties had come. But, as ideas of individual liberty and popular government gained power in Michigan, so did the opponents of the law gain in influence. They labored in season and out to educate the people to their views. Meantime, members of the State Society, secure in possessing the law, went quietly about their work or play. Petitions to the legislature for the repeal of one feature or another increased in number and influence; the popular press was enlisted; journals for the sole purpose of educating the public to greater liberality were scattered on all sides, until naught of value remained of the law, and its friends voted for its abolition. It does not appear what would have occurred had the individuals of the State and County Societies exerted all their energies to educate the people to the maintenance of the law. The fact remains, they did little or nothing, were utterly routed and, worse still, the echo of the affair still exhibits itself on most inopportune occasions.

Dr. Pitcher's comment was that the law induced an atrophy among the members of the Society, and stimulated conflicts among themselves to the mutilation of their own professional reputation.

The second stage in the evolution of the

Michigan Medical Society started with a meeting held at Ann Arbor, March 30th, 1853, and ended with an aborted meeting at the same place March 29th, 1860. The abolition of all medical laws by the Legislature in 1851 threw the profession of the State upon its own resources. Feeling the need of some sort of organization for mutual aid, inspired by a desire to assist the young Medical Department of the University (started in 1849); catching something of the enthusiasm of the young editor of the first *Michigan Medical Journal*, Dr. Edmund Andrews, the profession organized after the fashion of the conventions of that time.

New wants had come to the profession, and it planned for their supply. By its medical college it had entered upon a systematic training of its future members. By its medical journal it sought to stimulate the older men to larger observation, more frequent record of their work, and the encouragement of local medical societies.

Happily, the editor of the *Peninsular Medical Journal* was chosen Secretary, and continued such till his removal to Chicago three years later. He was also demonstrator of anatomy in the medical school, and instructor in comparative anatomy. A man of exceptional ability, clear in thought, clean in life, a marked man among kings, he started the enterprises well.

Of the scholarly ability, the indefatigable industry and upright life of his successor, Dr. E. P. Christian, late of Wyandotte, all who knew him will speak in exalted terms. As Secretary he faithfully served the Society till, amid the financial earthquake of '59 and the ominous rumbling of the approaching storm of the great Rebellion, it closed its doors.

Its Presidents were all men of mark—in order as follows:

George Landon, of Monroe;
Henry Taylor, of Mt. Clemens;
Zina Pitcher, of Detroit;
J. H. Beach, of Coldwater;
N. D. Stebbins, of Detroit;
J. Adams Allen, of Kalamazoo;
H. B. Shank, of Lansing.

Its eighth annual meeting was called at Coldwater, January 18, 1860, but, so few being present, it adjourned to Ann Arbor, March 29th, when, discouraged by the few present, it disbanded. Its total membership was 115, and its work admirable, worthy of the State at that time. The presidential addresses were thoughtful forceful, discussion of topics pertinent to professional interests. So far as records show, a singular unanimity prevailed—the more surprising because of the heated contests of both former and later years.

Its papers covered a wide range of topics; especially rich were they in observations upon the meteorology and health of the several localities—topics now covered by health and sanitary boards. It originated movements which finally resulted in the proper care of the insane in institutions owned and conducted by the State instead of by counties; movements for the proper registration of deaths, births and marriages; for State and local health boards; for an anatomical law so that an inquiring medical student might study human anatomy without running the risk of being mulct of two thousand dollars or spending two years in a cell with a midnight assassin.

Among the obvious causes of its downfall were:

1. The commercial disasters of 1857;
2. The growlings of the approaching civil war;
3. The natural operation of the feuds of former years;
4. The lack of stimulus from opposition;
5. Last, but not least, the absence of the sustaining interest of many local societies.

From the fact that the Society breathed its last at Ann Arbor it would seem that the Medical Department and its friends were not anxious to prolong its life.

The *Peninsular Journal* had struggled in conflict with its rival, the *Independent,* and finally combined with it and then dying—all of which must have been depressing.

While the election of Dr. Pitcher to the Presidency of the American Medical Association, at its first Detroit meeting in 1856, gratified his friends, it rendered his enemies the more bitter and so failed to advance the State Society.

During these seven years the profession learned to conduct a medical society without State support. ('Tis interesting to note that the report of its last meeing was published at State expense, doubtless because so many members were common to both Society and Legislature, and interested in pushing certain matters in each, as the completion of the Kalamazoo Asylum.) As a leader in these bodies was Dr. Foster Pratt, who for many years served the medical profession with marked ability in all its notable movements. He was one of the ninety thousand men sent Michigan to defend the Nation's life. With him went a host of doctors whose written and unwritten work show that this Society failed not its country in time of peril.

The third period in the evolution of the Michigan Medical Society began with 1866, and now at the end of thirty-six years is incomplete. Many of its founders are still with us to give the boys pointers along the line of medical and surgical work. We need their mature judgment and wise counsel in solving the problems of reorganization before us.

During these thirty-six years our records show 1,478 members admitted, 868 removed, resigned or died, leaving a net result of about 610.*

Among the conditions favoring the formation of this Society we note: (1) The closing of the civil war left many energetic, wide-awake young doctors in Detroit without adequate clientelle—through a medical society they saw a chance. (2) Efforts to remove the Medical Department of the University to Detroit, though long continued, had failed, while they advertised the waste of clinical material. (3) Clinical instruction as the leading feature of the coming medical education was everywhere emphasized.

With such conditions it is easy to see that personal ambition and economic thrift urged the establishment of a medical college in Michigan's commercial metropolis. After the example of the founders of the University Medical School, the promoters of the enterprise began with a medical journal, the *Detroit Review of Medicine and Pharmacy;* then followed, the same summer, the Michigan Medical Society,

*Adding the membership of the three periods we have total of 1,656 for 83 years.

and, lastly, in 1868, the Detroit Medical College.

Naturally, the Medical Department of the University exerted itself to retain and increase its hold upon the profession, and so its friends took active part in the Society. To offset the *Review of Medicine*, the *University Medical Journal* came into life. Through these, and other, agencies, friendly contests waged in and about the Michigan Medical Society, making it a lively affair till, by processes of evolution, both were fully occupied in other directions, when both the *Review* and *University Medical Journal* disappeared, as in any sense exponents of the separate medical schools. All parties had need of the Michigan Medical Society, hence its increase in size and influence.

Meantime the methods of the old time political convention, with its parliamentary contests; its personalities; its oratorical play to the galleries, became inadequate. After much discussion, in 1887, its scientific work was separated from the legislative, executive and judicial, and done in three sections, under the guidance of separate chairmen and secretaries. Thus more time was had for papers and fuller discussions, as the published transactions abundantly demonstrate. Further, this change multiplied offices, and so to a greater degree appeased the hunger for such diet. As scientific discussion rarely induces loss of temper, the sections disposed of much surplus energy in a peaceful manner.

Of the Presidents, eighteen are dead and seventeen living—one, Dr. J. H. Jerome, was elected twice, in 1867 and 1881—doubtless presidential timber was scarce in '81, as during the first period when Dr. Zina Pitcher was fourteen times President.

Of Secretaries we have had four: Dr. George E. Ranney for the first twenty years, then in order, Drs. George Duffield four years, C. W. Hitchcock six years, Collins H. Johnston four years, and A. P. Biddle two years; the first a soldier in the civil war, the last in the Cuban war.

During its first period the Michigan Medical Society limited itself largely to the execution of State laws regulating the practice of medicine, doing little to develop its members along scientific or literary lines, or to foster, encourage or develop county societies.

Its second period stimulated members to observe, record and publish facts relative to local climate, epidemic diseases, public health, as well as those relating to private practice. It strongly insisted upon the observance of the code of ethics, American Medical Association; it encouraged the *Peninsular Medical Journal;* it urged the Medical Department, University of Michigan, to a higher preliminary requirement and better professional training; but it remained a large local society, doing nothing to foster, encourage or develop local medical societies.

Its third period began with an impulse to utilize the clinical advantages of Detroit, but it promoted the development of State Insane Asylums in lieu of the wretched county lazzar houses for the herding of the insane; it initiated the movements that led to the formation of proper state and local health boards, proper registration of deaths, births and marriages; some sort of restriction of free trade in medical practice, to those competent for the work; and numerous other en-

terprises having for their object the application of the latest scientific knowledge to the betterment of the physical lives of our citizens.

Its jealousy for membership at once competent and clean drew it into a controversy relative to the educating of homeopathic students by the regular faculty of the University. While it had no legal penalties with which to enforce its ideas, a simple disapproval of the proposed scheme brought upon its head a veritable storm of thunder and lightning compared with which the terrors of Mount Sinai was a summer breeze. The final result was the establishment of a sectarian medical school entirely distinct, so that it cannot be said that our own school gives aid and comfort to such as seek to make the world believe "a part equals the whole."

These and allied activities are at once the index of virile force in the Michigan Medical Society and a stimulus to its further development.

Papers and discussions were greatly multiplied by the sections, thus attracting more scholarly persons and raising its scientific standard. During both periods it was a voluntary association, differing from local societies by drawing from a larger field, holding less frequent but longer sessions, and giving aid and comfort to those disgruntled with the local society or unwilling to co-operate therewith.

In spite of the stimulus of the most remarkable period in all medical history, our growth in numbers from 100 to 610 during thirty-six years has been disappointing. It is especially discouraging that members drop out, by failure to pay dues or because they find the Society unprofitable. Alabama, with but 1,700 physicians, has 1,200 in the State Association. Baldwin County, 125 miles long, in which are but nine physicians, eight belong to the County Society.

The present wants of the Michigan Medical Society are three:

First—A membership of three thousand, and provision for keeping pace with increasing population.

Second—Sixty County Medical Societies, instead of fifteen, with plans for increase to the limit.

Third—A force adequate to the growing of a live medical society in each district, and bringing each doctor of that district into active fellowship therewith.

How shall these wants be supplied?

Time forbids a complete answer, were data available; to aid each in formulating such answer, we present the following suggestions:

1. Work, tactful, persistent, by intelligent representative persons, is absolutely essential. To secure these the Society must be divided into Councilors, Delegates and Members; the first attending to the business, the second to the scientific work; thus we ensure a small body of representative men for planning details and supervising their execution.

2. The Society will avoid all political entanglements because it has learned that they develop antagonisms from the "outs," enervate the "ins," or reduce both to the level of the lowest. Far better retain the method of our past two periods and relegate to special boards all police duties in regulating the practice of medicine—said boards representing the several sects patronized by the people. We may do much to secure the best individuals on

the boards and compel their obedience to the law. Such independent position will enable us to lead in all movements for the application of science to the common good, and have our leadership recognized.

3. For fifty years the Michigan Medical Society has been weak, in an organization, so compacted that when one suffers all suffer; when one prospers all prosper. Since such can spring only from correct sociological principles, and be perpetuated by their continuance, education is our watch-word. This must be persistently continued along three lines: A—The perfecting ourselves in professional ability; B—mastering the best methods of co-operating for common aims (Medical Sociology); C—teaching the laity how to apply scientific knowledge for their advantage.

Our past shows prosperity as one or all of these have been employed. Before 1851 the Society published nothing, and so its educational power was at a minimum—its opponents published much, to our disadvantage. From 1851 to 1870 the Society utilized the medical journals. Since 1870 it has issued yearly volumes. Both methods of educating promoted our work, increased enthusiasm, and raised our standing.

We have augmented our knowledge, educated and gained influence with the laity by efforts to establish and maintain boards of health; registration of vital statistics; regulation of the practice of medicine; to secure the proper care of the insane, deaf, dumb; to establish and maintain hospitals, dispensaries; to obtain such school buildings as would better fit them to train young children to sound citizenship; to teach the correct principles of drainage, sewerage, water supply, plumbing, heating, etc. For this purpose we have used the lay press as well as medical and other scientific journals.

Just now the question presents: Cannot we increase our educational power by changing our official form of publication?

New York and Illinois tell us in emphatic phrase, supported by facts and figures, that their state society medical journals have increased their incomes, multiplied their membership, and augmented their enthusiasm, far beyond their wildest dreams. May not this modern method serve us equally well?

It is suggested that this meeting, by specific resolution, direct the Publication Committee to issue the transactions in the form of a monthly journal, to be known as THE JOURNAL OF THE MICHIGAN MEDICAL SOCIETY. To aid this committee it is suggested that four members be appointed till their successors be elected. To this Board of Publication, all matters relating to the expenditure of money shall be referred, without debate, and on it shall be placed all responsibility for the JOURNAL management. It shall organize immediately after appointment, hold at least one meeting, and submit an annual report of its acts.

4. Inquiry respecting the early death of many local societies reveals the conviction that the cause was "too big a dose of unworthy members." Possibly wise missionary work might have saved both individuals and society. Our predecessors paid much attention to membership, and we reap the reward. We may not license to practice, but we can assure in our members fitness for work much higher than that exacted by a legal examining board;

one toward which the latter may aim, and thus insure, for the future, doctors better than ourselves—a course promotive of the highest good of this Society.

5. It is suggested that this meeting appoint a Councilor from each Congressional District, who shall hold office for six years or till his successor be elected, so arranging the terms that two shall be elected yearly thereafter. Their duty shall be the promotion of new county societies, reviving old ones, and adjusting misunderstandings. The expense of this work shall be paid by this Society, to the limit of $25 yearly to each Councilor. The Councilors shall organize immediately after appointment, hold at least one meeting, and submit to this Society an annual report.

6. It is suggested that each Vice-President, by resolution, be directed to place himself in connection with the Councilors of the three Congressional Districts nearest his residence, so as to render all possible aid in the work of promoting the formation, development and healthful activity of local medical societies within his territory.

7. More than eighty years ago this Society arranged a reciprocity with other State societies having standards equal with ours, so that individuals on removing to such State were accepted by its society, and its members on removing to ours were accepted by us, so avoiding the annoyance of re-election. If re-enacted, this reciprocity in State society membership would enhance our membership value and encourage the maintenance of good standing therein. A bank note current at face value in forty States is more desirable than one current in one State.

8. Never has this Society made special effort to retain till death, members of long standing and faithful service. One by one each becomes incapacitated for active effort. Why not form a Roll of Honorary Members, with full privileges but without dues? Scant knowledge of men is required to know that these veterans would, most efficiently, promote enlistment of their young medical friends, and their love for this Society grow stronger as they neared their eternal home. It is suggested that the Committee on Re-organization define the limitations needful to make and keep this a roll of honor, and select the names of those now eligible, and that additions hereafter be yearly presented by the Committee on Nominations, the Society electing them as other members.

Lastly, for eighty-three years the Michigan Medical Society has kept step with the onward march of medical progress. It remains to gather wisdom from our past, from our sister state societies, from the American Medical Association, and medical sociology and use it as a guide to enlist the cordial co-operation of every physician in making the Michigan Medical Society worthy of its magnificent domain, its glorious past, and our universal brotherhood.

91 and 93 Lafayette Avenue.

NOTE—October 24th, 1902.

Unanimously, without discussion or debate, on June 26th, after the report of the Committee on Re-organization, and the reading of this address, a new Constitution and By-Laws were adopted—embodying the suggestions of both.

The Council organized on July 10th, arranged for the work of each Councilor, so that early in August the applications for charters as Branches began to come from the counties. To date nineteen charters have been granted and twenty more organizations are in process of formation. The Society's Journal issued its first number in September with about twenty-five hundred dollars' worth of advertising result of its large and increasing circulation.

The scientific method of organization and helpful spirit pervading its operations secures the approval , while the ceaseless energy of its officers in rendering these effective is a marvel to the onlooker.

The organization operates three hundred and sixty-five days of each year and no day passes with-

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